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Bonn Spy Units Counsel Vigilance Against Reds

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BONN — West German intelligence agencies are warning the country not to drop its guard because of improved relations with the Soviet Union and the East. The agencies have asked parliament for more money to fight espionage in the federal republic.

There are several intelligence agencies operating in West Germany. The best known abroad was once called "the Gehlen organization," headed by the legendary spy-master Reinhard Gehlen. However, its official name is the Bundesnachrichtendienst, simply known as BND. Gehlen has since retired but its mission of "obtaining information likely to be of use in helping Bonn take decisions" continues.

The BND's big score was predicting the exact date of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and the six day Arab-Israeli

war. Its worst showing was when a top official in the BND, Heinz Felfe, along with Hans Clemens and Erwin Tiesel, turned out to be Communist double agents who had infiltrated the organization.

Like the CIA, which founded the West German intelligence agency after the war, the BND is prohibited by law from operating within the federal republic. But other intelligence agencies often suspect that the BND is disregarding this law. Especially, since it was discovered the BND was investigating certain journalists in Bonn.

The second intelligence agency is known as the "Bundesmat Fur Verfassungsschutz" (Protection of the constitution), mercifully called just BVF. The BVF is a counter-espionage service once headed by Dr. Otto John, who shocked the intelligence community by defecting to East Germany. Later John returned and was sent to prison.

The BVF is the responsibility of West Germany's minister of interior, Hans Dietrich Genscher, and could be compared to our FBI. Genscher has warned Germans not to draw any false conclusions that Communist spying will not end with the detente with the East.

A BVF official pointed out, "The enemy's industrial espionage is increasing, so is its political espionage. Since the detente with the East, the Communists want to know more about our political reactions."

Last year the BVF uncovered more than 1,000 spy cases and sentenced 800 persons involved to jail. Since the Munich massacre, the organization has set up a special department to keep an eye on extremist groups among the almost 3 million foreign workers in West Germany.

Foreigners who speak the language are trained at BVF schools to become agents and infiltrate among the country's imported workers.